Nazi ones. Had not the Webbs proclaimed a New Civilisation, based on perfect democracy, justice and equality between man and man, and Sir Bernard Pares revised his former unfavourable opinion of Soviet judicial procedure?[15] Even the Duchess of Atholl had come to treat sympathetically what once had been anathema to her; even Mr. Garvin, faithful admirer of Mussolini, had reached the conclusion that "there is, in fact, no firmer ally than Russia in the defence of freedom/[16]

At the Paris Exhibition, Soviet and Nazi pavilions faced one another, each feverishly aiming at being taller than the other; in front of each, figures symbolic of what seemed most sublime—heroic German and heroic worker, of plaster made, and soon the worse for wear. "Were these pretentiously frail pavilions straining to be huge, truly defiant ? Or the same, one a reflection of the other, and inside the same strident emptiness, graphs and statistics demonstrating prosperity's advance, photographs dis-playing happiness and the lineaments of leaders by all beloved ? Too happy, happy mortals to be thus prosperous, thus to smile, and to be thus blessed in their leaders. Two twin plaster giants confronted each other in pretended defiance, and huddled round them were smaller edifices, failed or aspiring giants, in one of these a representation of Mr. Neville Chamberlain in waders, fishing; the whole constructed and arranged under the direction of M. Blum, its completion constantly delayed by labour and other difficulties; indeed, completed never, closed and demolished when still incomplete.

[15] In *The Times* of April 25, 1933, he wrote, of the Metropolitan-Vickers

Trial, that the 'confessions of the accused Russians are not worth the paper
that they are written on/ that owing to the subservience of Soviet courts to
Communist policy, there is no point in bringing the accused to trial at all,
and that the determination of the Bolsheviks to 'reduce human beings to
pulp, and implant everywhere fear, suspicion and servility, produce moral
casualties which far more than outweigh die possible realisation of any theory*;
in the *Observer* of March 7, 1934» he wrote, of the Radek-Sokolnikov Trial,
that its verbatim report 'calls for serious study*, that wrecking activities were
'proved up to the hilt*, and that 'convincing evidence* was adduced,

[16] See editorial paragraph in the *Observer* of March 19,1939*